28. (Added) The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein the vibration and/or shock absorbing member provided between the lid member and the disk unit is formed by a plurality of small pieces.

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29. (Added) The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein the insulative sheet member is provided between the disk unit and the plurality of small pieces forming the vibration and/or shock absorbing members.

REMARKS

Claims 1-2 and 4-29 are pending in this application, of which claims 1, 4, 10, 12, 14-19 and 22-23 have been amended and claims 24-29 are newly-added. Claim 3 has been canceled.

The Examiner has required a substitute specification in proper idiomatic English.

Accordingly, Applicants' agent contacted the Examiner by telephone on March 1, 2000 and urged him to consider withdrawing this requirement. The Examiner indicated that as long as the entire specification was reviewed and corrected, the amendments made thereto, if not too numerous, could be presented in the response without the need for a substitute specification. In view of the telephone conversation, it is submitted that the number of amendments is sufficiently small to present them to be entered by PTO clerks without undue hardship, and that no substitute specification is necessary.

Fig. 1 has been corrected by labeling it "Prior Art". If approved, this correction will be incorporated into formal drawings to be filed prior to payment of the Issue Fee.

Claims 14-17 stand objected to for being in improper form.

Accordingly, claims 14-17 have been amended to correct the improper dependencies.

Before turning to the cited references, a brief review of the claimed invention is in order.

The claims of the present invention, as amended, now recite an insulative sheet member which can slide with respect to the disk unit when the lid member is mounted (by sliding the lid member), because the sheet member has a small coefficient of friction. If no sheet member were provided, the lid member would stick to the disk unit because of the high coefficient of friction of the vibration and/or shock absorbing member, thereby causing the vibration and/or shock absorbing member to deform when the lid member slides. If the vibration and/or shock absorbing member were deformed, the vibration and/or shock would not be absorbed properly by the vibration and/or shock absorbing member.

On the other hand, according to the present invention, the sheet member, which is provided between the disk unit and the vibration and/or shock absorbing member, slides when the lid member slides, so as to prevent deformation of the vibration and/or shock absorbing member. Such features and effects of the present invention are not shown or suggested in the prior art of record, as discussed in detail below.

Claims 1-4, 18, and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,673,171 to Vaughese et al (hereafter "**Vaughese et al**").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Vaughese et al discloses a series of hard disk drives anchored to the top sides of perforated metal plates 62 disposed above the top sides of molded plastic support trays 38 in parallel relationships therewith. Sets of spaced-apart elastomeric cushioning members 70 have upper portions captively retained between each metal plate 62 and its associated plastic tray 38, and lower

portions projecting downwardly beyond the tray 38.

Fig. 4 shows cushioning members 70 being attached to plastic tray 38, while metal plate 62 rests on the upper surface of the cushioning members 70.

Vaughese et al. fails to disclose any element which corresponds to the insulative sheet member of the present invention, the benefits of such being disclosed on page 24, lines 13-32 of the specification of the instant application.

Accordingly, claims 1, 4, 18 and 19 have been amended to recite this element, and the §102(e) rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 5-9, 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,463,527 to Hager et al (hereafter "**Hager et al**").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Hager et al discloses a suspension system for disk drives utilizing shear loaded elastomeric supports of different durometer hardnesses and elastomeric pads.

As disclosed in claim 3, lines 37-53:

> As shown in FIGS. 5 and 6, prior to inserting the disk drive 12 into the housing 14, a disk drive assembly 62 is made including the brackets 32 as previously described and shock absorber pads 64. There are a total of 12 shock absorber pads 64 provided in the preferred embodiment on the disk drive assembly 62, 4 on each of the left 28 and right 30 sides, and 2 on each of the top 24 and bottom 26 sides. The shock absorber pads 64 do not span all the way between the disk drive 12 and the housing 14, but an air space exists between the outer surface of each pad 64 and the confronting surface of the housing 14. In the preferred embodiment, this air space is approximately 0.075 inches at the top and bottom and 0.030 inches on each side, and the pads 64 are approximately 0.125 inches thick on the top and bottom and 0.150 inches thick on the sides. Therefore, greater air space and padding is provided on the top and bottom than on the sides.

Furthermore, all pads 64 consist of SORBOTHANE having the same hardness.[1] This teaches away from the present invention as recited in claims 5-9, 20 and 21, which recite that the side mounted shock absorbers are made of a different material than the bottom mounted shock absorbers, having different vibration and/or shock absorbing characteristics.

Thus, the §102(b) rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 10-12, 22 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by US. Patent 5,654,875 to Lawson (hereafter "**Lawson**").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Lawson discloses an isolation mounting system for a hard disk drive. A dampening member 45 formed of elastomeric dampening material is bonded to the bottom of each mounting nut such that the dampening member is located in the slot and contacts the top face of the disk drive enclosure. The dampening members isolate the disk drive from mechanical vibrations and impacts applied to the body of the computer.

Although **Lawson** teaches the use of vibration/shock absorbing members having different thicknesses, **Lawson** is silent as to how the different thicknesses should be selected and what kind of vibrations/shocks are to be absorbed by the vibration/shock absorbing members having the different thicknesses.

In contrast, in the present invention, the vibration and/or shock absorbing members have different thicknesses or different vibration and/or shock absorbing characteristics, so that a thicker

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[1]Mounts 68 are not relevant to the claims of the present invention because mounts 18 are each arranged at a corner between disk drive 12 and housing 14.

or softer one of the vibration and/or shock absorbing members absorbs up to a predetermined vibration and/or shock and a thinner or harder one of the vibration and/or shock absorbing members absorbs vibration and/or shock exceeding the predetermined vibration and/or shock.

Accordingly, claims 10, 12, 22 and 23 have been amended to recite this distinction, and these amendments are supported on page 27, line 21 to page 28, line 29 of the specification of the instant application.

Thus, the §102(e) rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over **Lawson**, and further in view of **Hager et al**.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Due to the dependency of claim 13 upon either claim 10 or 12, where both of which have been amended to be patentable over **Lawson**, it is respectfully submitted that claim 13 is allowable over **Lawson** even in view of **Hager et al**.

Thus, the §103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

Newly-added claims 24-29 are supported on page 24, lines 13-32 of the specification of the instant application.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1-2 and 4-29, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an

appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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